

**Department of Mental Health
Exceptions Committee Meeting**

April 4, 2003

Minutes

In attendance were Rosie Anderson-Harper, Julie Carel, Jodi Frederick, Melinda Elmore, Rebecca Carson and coordinator Rich Overmann.

New Beginnings requested a waiver to allow an employee, Sean Muhammad, to serve as a Community Support Worker in its Adolescent program. Mr. Muhammad's does not meet the requirements of 9 CSR 30-3.110 (11)(E) because his degree is not in the human service field and he does not have enough relevant experience to compensate for the lack of a degree. The committee noted the following.

- (1) The documents submitted in support of the request had three different names for Mr. Muhammad, as follows: a diploma from Western Illinois University has Chantel Henry; a document from KAPPA DELTA has Chantel R. Muhammad; and the letter of request and the resume referred to him as Sean Muhammad.
- (2) Mr. Muhammad's relevant experience is employment as a Program Manager/Case Manager in a program or organization identified as "AAARM".

The committee requested (a) additional information about AAARM and about Mr. Muhammad's duties and responsibilities at AAARM; and (b) documentation that would demonstrate to the committee that the three names appearing in the request all identify the same person. Examples would be picture ID's, and identification with social security numbers.

Tri-County Mental Health Services, Inc. requested an exception from requirements for handicapped accessible bathrooms under 9 CSR 10-7.120. The committee noted that it is an expectation that all facilities have a bathroom that is handicapped accessible and that the agency should continue to seek out facilities that comply. The committee approved the waiver for two years with the expectation that the agency will have achieved compliance by that time.

Rebecca Schaller requested a review of an incident resulting in a finding of abuse or neglect in 1997. The committee did not consider the request because the employment of persons who have been found by the department to have committed abuse or neglect is prohibited by statute, namely section 630.170, RSMo. The committee has authority to grant exceptions from administrative rules but not from statute.

Lafayette House requested an exception to allow an intern at the facility, Vonda J. Castillo, to work as a co-dependency counselor working with children following her completing her MSW in May 2003. Ms. Castillo does not meet the full requirements for this position under 9 CSR 30-3.110(8)(A)2 because she lacks the required two years experience. Reviewing Ms. Castillo's resume, the committee noted that she has at least 10 months experience. Members of the committee also noted that the facility consistently meets certification requirements. The committee approved the request with the condition that for the first year of her employment as a codependency counselor, Ms. Castillo will be supervised by a person who is qualified under the rules for codependency counseling for children.

April 4, 2003

Christie Holm
Tri-County Mental Health Services, Inc.
3100 NE. 83rd St.
Kansas City, MO 64119

Dear Ms. Holm

On April 4, 2003, the Department of Mental Health Exceptions Committee reviewed your request for an exception dated March 25, 2003. The committee noted that it is an expectation that all facilities have a bathroom that is handicapped accessible and that the agency should continue to seek out facilities that comply. The committee approved the waiver for two years with the expectation that the agency will have achieved compliance by that time.

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If you have any questions in this matter, please contact me at 573-751-8077.

Sincerely.

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Richard H. Overmann
Exceptions Committee Coordinator

April 4, 2003

Carolyn P. Hale, MS
Lafayette House
1809 Connor
Joplin, MO 64804

Dear Ms. Hale:

On April 4, 2003, the Department of Mental Health Exceptions Committee reviewed your request for an exception dated March 27, 2003. The committee approved the request with the condition that, for the first year, Ms. Castillo will be supervised by a person who is qualified under the rules for codependency counseling for children.

If you have any questions in this matter, please contact me at 573-751-8077.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Overmann
Exceptions Committee Coordinator

April 4, 2003

Rebecca Schaller
208 West 23rd
Higginsville, MO 64037

Dear Ms. Schaller:

On April 4, 2003, the Department of Mental Health Exceptions Committee reviewed your letter dated March 10, 2003. As we understand your letter, you were found by the Higginsville Habilitation Center to have committed abuse or neglect in 1997 and because of this finding you are unable to find employment.

The committee did not fully consider your request for the following reason. The committee's authority is limited to making exceptions to administrative rules promulgated by the department of mental health but this authority does not extend to statutes. The committee noted that section 630.170 RSMo, a statute, prohibits certain mental health facilities from employing persons who have been found to have committed specific acts of abuse or neglect. Since this prohibition is in statute, the Exceptions Committee has no authority to make an exception.

If you have any questions in this matter, please give me a call at 573-751-8077.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Overmann
Exceptions Committee Coordinator

April 4, 2003

Clarissa Cobb-Fritz
New Beginnings
3901 N. Union Blvd, Ste 101
St. Louis, MO 63115

Dear Ms. Cobb-Fritz:

On April 4, 2003, the Department of Mental Health Exceptions Committee reviewed your request for an exception dated March 26, 2003. The committee was not familiar with the organization identified as AAARM in Mr. Muhammad's resume. The committee noted that the documents submitted in support of the request had three different names for Mr. Muhammad, as follows: a diploma from Western Illinois University has Chantel Henry; a document from KAPPA DELTA has Chantel R. Muhammad; and the letter of request and the resume referred to him as Sean Muhammad.

The committee requested additional information, as follows:

1. A statement indicating what AAARM stands for and what services it offers;
2. A more detailed description of Mr. Muhammad's duties at AAARM; and
3. Documentation that would demonstrate to the committee that the three names appearing in the request all identify the same person. Examples would be copies of picture ID's and copies of identifying documents with social security numbers.

If you have any questions in this matter, please give me a call at 573-751-8077.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Overmann
Exceptions Committee Coordinator

